HON'BLE SRI JUSTICE GODA RAGHURAM

W.P.NO. 1305 OF 2007

DATED: 25.1.2007

Between:

Vemula Anjali Devi and others

… Petitioners

and

The District Collector, Krishna District
and others. …Respondents

THE HON'BLE SRI JUSTICE GODA RAGHURAM

W.P.NO.1305 OF 2007

ORAL ORDER:

The petitioners' lands are sought to be acquired by the issuance of a notification dated.20-11-2006 under Section 4(1) of the Land Acquisition Act, 1894 (for short 'the Act'). Urgency clause has been invoked under Section 17 (4) of the Act and the enquiry under Section.5-A of the Act dispensed with mechanically and without due application of mind, is the complainant.

The impugned notification dated.20-11-2006 states that the acquisition is for the purpose of construction of storage tank for distribution of drinking water. This requirement is not of such an emergent nature as would justify invocation of the urgency clause and dispensing with the enquiry under Section 5-A of the Act. The enquiry under Section 5-A of the Act is a salutary statutory provision intended for affording a reasonable opportunity to the owners of lands to object to the acquisition on any relevant grounds as they wish to submit.

In the aforesaid circumstances, the decision in the impugned notification to invoke the urgency clause and dispensing with the enquiry under Section 5-A of the Act is declared irrational and

unsustainable. The respondents are directed to issue notice to the petitioners for submission of objections if any to the proposal to acquire the lands. On the petitioners' submitting their objections within the time stipulated in the notice, the same shall be considered and an appropriate decision taken duly communicating the decision to the petitioners simultaneously with the recommendations made after the enquiry under Section 5-A of the Act by the acquiring authority. The petitioner shall not be dispossessed pending communication of the decision to the petitioners consequent on the enquiry under Section 5-A of the Act.

The writ petition is disposed of as above at the stage of admission, after hearing the learned counsel for the petitioner and the learned Government Pleader for Land Acquisition. There shall however be no order as to costs.

GODA RAGHURAM,J

25th JANUARY,2007
*TSNR